Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Leona Wehde was born on June 4, 1909, to John and Emma Wehde in northwestern Iowa, one of ten children, and moved with her family at an early age to a farm in Mapleton Township in Minnehaha County; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, In 1933, Leona married John C. Erickson and they operated the Erickson homestead until their grandson later returned to take over the reigns; and,

Whereas, Following the loss of John, Leona married Gordon Aldrich, and she continued an active life in the community of Renner, South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Leona will observe her 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as her family and friends gather to honor and celebrate her life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a woman who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 4, 2009, as

LEONA ERICKSON-ALDRICH DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all her friends and relatives in wishing her a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State